

Line ~~16~~, delete "(10)".

Delete line 18.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-11, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

---

12. (New) A method for testing an inhibit function of a network component transmission-inhibiting device used for inhibiting a transmission line from the network component to a network by performing the inhibit function which causes a logical signal to be applied to a first node, the method comprising:

tapping a potential of the transmission line;

feeding the tapped potential back to the network component;

activating the inhibit function;

transmitting a predefined test signal message from the network component to the network via the transmission line while the inhibit function is activated; and

testing the inhibit function by analyzing the tapped potential fed back.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

tapping the potential of the transmission line at a second node between the first node and a transmission port of the network component, the transmission port being connected to the transmission line.

14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the network component is a microcontroller having an interrupt function which can be controlled via an interrupt port, the tapped potential being fed back to the interrupt port, and the inhibit

function being tested by analyzing whether or not the interrupt function is triggered.

15. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the network component is a microcontroller having a scannable input port, the tapped potential being fed back to the scannable input port, the inhibit function being tested by analyzing a signal at the scanned input port.

16. (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:  
closing a switch which is located between the first  
node and a supply potential to apply the logic signal.

17. (New) A device for testing an inhibit function of a network component transmission-inhibiting device used for inhibiting a transmission line from the network component to a network by performing the inhibit function which causes a logical signal to be applied to a first node, the device comprising:

a test signal line to tap a potential of the transmission line and to feed the tapped potential back to the network component;

a test-signal message transmitting device to transmit a predefined test signal message from the network component to the network via the transmission line in response to an activated inhibit function; and

a testing device to test the inhibit function by analyzing the fed back tapped potential in the network component during transmission of the predefined test signal message.

18. (New) The device according to claim 17, further comprising:  
a resistance provided between the first node and a  
transmission port connected to the transmission line.

19. (New) The device according to claim 17, wherein the transmission inhibiting device includes: